

REMARKS

Claims 56-73 were pending in the application. Claims 64-73 have been withdrawn. Claims 56-63 were rejected. Claim 62 has been canceled and new claim 74 has been added. Claims 56-61 and 63 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The present application is a divisional of 08/855,499 (now U.S. Patent 6,271,278), which is a CIP of 08/416,269 (now U.S. Patent 5,750,585).

Support for the language of claim 56 is found in the '585 patent at col. 3, lines 34-67 and col. 5, lines 29-31.

Support for the language of claim 57 is found in the '585 patent at col. 3, lines 50-53.

Support for the language of claim 58 is found in the '585 patent at col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 6 and the disclosure of U.S. Pat. 4,178,361 incorporated by reference therein.

Support for the language of claim 59 is found in the '585 patent at col. 4, lines 1-6 and the disclosure of U.S. Pat. 4,178,361 incorporated by reference therein.

Support for the language of claim 60 is found in the '585 patent at col. 4, lines 41-47 and the disclosure of U.S. Pat. 4,178,361 incorporated by reference therein.

Support for the language of claim 61 is found in the '585 patent at col. 3, line 44.

Support for the language of claim 63 is found in the '585 patent at col. 9, line 16.

Support for the language of new claim 74 is found in the '585 patent at col. 6, lines 40-41.

I. Claims 56-63 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Hahnle et al. (DE 195 40 951).

Claims 56-61, 63 and 74 presented hereinabove for examination are entitled to the priority date of U.S. Patent 5,750,585 (April 4, 1995) inasmuch as the claimed subject matter appears wholly therein. MPEP 201.11 Consequently, Hahnle et al. is not properly cited against the claimed invention.

II. Claims 56-63 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Phan et al. (US Patent 5,506,035).

Claims 56-61, 63 and 74 presented hereinabove are entitled to the priority date of U.S. Patent 5,750,585 (April 4, 1995). The publication date of van Phan et al. is April 9, 1996. Accordingly, van Phan et al. is not properly cited against the claimed invention.

III. Claims 56-63 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al. (Society of Biomaterials article).

Claims 56-61, 63 and 74 presented hereinabove are entitled to the priority date of U.S. Patent 5,750,585 (April 4, 1995). The publication date of Park et al. is April 5-9, 1994.

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Accordingly, Park et al. is not properly cited against the claimed invention.

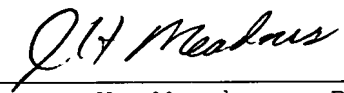
IV. Claims 56-63 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0744435.

Claims 56-61, 63 and 74 presented hereinabove are entitled to the priority date of U.S. Patent 5,750,585 (April 4, 1995). The publication date of EP 074435 is November 27, 1996. Accordingly, this reference is not properly cited against the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is evident that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowability is solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation could expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, James H. Meadows, hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date April 30, 2007 Signature: 